



VOL. XVIII NO. 30

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1901

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY
RICHMOND

PRICE, 5 CENTS

THAT SECRET CIRCULAR.

THE ALLEGED INCREASE OF SALARY.

Treachery in the Main Office. Specifications made. Emphatic Denials.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR IS CONFIDENT—SAYS IT WAS DONE BY THOSE WHO SEEK OFFICE—THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Rumors of treachery in the main office of the GRAND FOUNTAIN, UNITED ORDER OF TRUE REFORMERS have been circulating and charges and counter-charges made. It seems that a secret circular has been issued and distributed to every subordinate Fountain in the United States which has elected delegates to the annual session which convenes in this city on the first Tuesday in September.

THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT.
The attack primarily is upon President William L. Taylor, and it seems to be a reopening of the bitter fight of three years ago, when Cashier R. T. Hill was a candidate for the position of President and Grand Worthy Master, and Grand Worthy Secretary, W. P. Burrell, the leader of the latter forces.

The secret circular is not signed. It is charged by President Taylor's friends that although the last two gentlemen are involved in the raise of salaries, that they are under suspicion so far as the issuance and distribution of the same is concerned, for the skill with which they have been distributed shows that the person or persons involved are in touch with the records.

The amusing part about the affair is that those who are most anxious to oppose President Taylor are themselves involved in the alleged illegal increase of salary.

LIFE TENURE IN OFFICE.
It is evident too that they apprehend that President Taylor will at this session make a bid for a life tenure in office as was the case with the late Rev. W. W. Brown.

President Taylor is a thorough organizer and a tireless fighter, and it is evident that he is marshalling his forces to meet the new, but alarming conditions which will confront him at the next annual session. Some of the subordinate Fountains read the circular and some of the officers destroyed them so it is said, before they reached their intended destination.

The following is a copy of the anonymous document:

A COPY OF THE CIRCULAR.

RICHMOND, VA., June, 1901.

Dear Brethren:—
If you have not time to consider and read all of this appeal when it is presented in your Fountain, please read numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, and then appoint a committee to examine all of this appeal, and request of them to report to your Fountain.

Yours in the interest of the Order and also in U. T. and O.

AN APPEAL TO THE SUBORDINATE FOUNTAINS.

Brethren:—
The committee who sends you this letter is made up of members of different Fountains, and we have been members for several years.

As such, we are in position to see the difference of interest, as shown by our first president, and lack of interest as shown by the present President.

We have been watching the frequent violations of the laws and other inconsistencies.

WANT JUSTICE AND EQUITY.

We therefore pray of you, as brethren who desire that justice and equity should be given all members, to appoint a committee to examine the laws to which we refer herein, and also to think carefully over the unjust and unfair acts to which we will direct your attention in this letter.

After examining and considering all we have said, if you do not find our statements true and worthy, then we do ask you to make a demand for justice.

The first point we desire to have you examine is that the Pres. has had his salary raised from \$150.00 to \$300.00 per month, and this has been done without the confirmation of the Grand Fountain.

1. Such action has been confirmed by

the Grand Fountain, we, the members of the subordinate Fountains, have never been informed of such. Please read Section 2, on page 19, and you will see that the law has been violated by the President.

The second point we beg you to consider is, that he has four sons in good paying positions. This is wrong and unfair as there are other honest and intelligent persons of our Order, and they should be given some of these good positions.

THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES.

Why is it that Fountains, which under the constitution are entitled to two delegates, and are now represented by one delegate, and yet each member is required to pay eighty cents annual tax?

Now, why should we pay 80 cents for one delegate? If 80 cents was sufficient for two delegates, 40 cents should be ample to pay for one. What then becomes of the other 40 cents?

The next point to be examined is, why is it that the joining fee of both Class B and E, has been increased and yet the death benefits from these classes reduced? This has been done without the confirmation of the Grand Fountain, thus violating the Section 2, Page 19. Please read it.

A CUT IN BENEFITS.

The death benefit from Class B, now is only \$140., but it used to be \$200. In Class E, the death benefit now is \$450. when it used to be \$500. This refers to persons over 40 years of age. Now what has become of the \$50. taken from Class B, and also the \$50. taken from Class E?

The next point to be examined into is, why is it that so much of the important business which should come up before the Grand Fountain, is never presented for its consideration, but left unacted upon, so that the Board of Directors have to attend to it?

MUCH WORK LEFT OVER.

This is unfair, as the particular business should be brought up in the Grand Fountain, then the delegates can see, hear and know what is being done and can tell the various Fountains of it when they return to their several homes; but when the business is transacted by the Board of Directors, then a few act for the majority.

Another point is that the salaries of the Grand Worthy Secretary and the Cashier have also been raised, and this action has never been confirmed by the Grand Fountain.

Section 2, Page 19, is again violated. As members, our complaint is a just one, and if we do not instruct our delegates to inquire into these points and demand an explanation from the officers violating these laws and assuming authority that they have no right to assume, the time may come, if these officers continue acting in this high-handed manner, that we will regret not having demanded an explanation and calling a halt.

GRIEVOUS CHARGES.

The local members form and support the Order, and it is wrong to let a few persons violate its laws and wrongfully run affairs, especially when they are trying to get all the money they can for themselves, members of their families and a few favored friends.

The principles of our order are all right, as they are built on the lines of justice and equity to all, but my dear brethren they are being so violated and abused that justice is about to step down from her throne of honor and lay aside the scale of equity; thus causing her throne to become the seat of the merciless and her scales of equity to become the weights and measures of money-grubbers and those interested in self alone. In a short and plain statement we desire you to instruct your delegate to inquire into the following:

A SUMMARY OF THE TROUBLES.

1. Why should the salaries of certain officers be raised?

2. If their salaries are increased, why has not this action been confirmed?

3. Is it just and fair for the President to have four of his sons in good paying positions?

4. Why not give some other persons a chance to be at the head of some branch of the order?

5. Why increase the joining fee in Classes B and E and yet reduce the death benefits?

6. Why compel each member to pay 80 cents tax, when there is only one delegate from each Fountain?

7. What has become of the \$50. saved by reducing the death benefit of Class B, and the \$50. by reducing the benefit of Class E?

8. Why is it that Section 2, Page 19 has been so often violated, as cited in Numbers 1, 2 and 5 of this appeal?

9. Please instruct your delegate not to vote for the new Constitution at the Grand Sitting, but request that a copy be given him or purchased, and when the delegate returns have each section read carefully in your Fountain. See Section 12, Page 28.

[WANT DELEGATES AGAINST TAYLOR.]

10. Please send your most capable person as delegate and one who is opposed to electing the President for life.

11. Remember the new Constitution will be presented for confirmation and that means new laws, new regulations for every True Reformer, as such you need a delegate of the best intellect, of good judgment and one who will vote only for that which is for the good of the Order.

12. In Section 2, Page 19, the Board of Directors is invested with the power to set the salaries of officers, as such Section 6, page 20 is a fraud, a repetition and we hope you will instruct your delegate to vote to have it repealed.

Standing alone as it is, it is dangerous.

President Taylor's friends declare the circular to be erroneous and without foundation.

They claim that it is the work of person or persons seeking office and have warned the brotherhood to beware of such false prophets.

It is learned that Cashier R. T. Hill and Grand Worthy Secretary W. P. Burrell disavow all knowledge of the document.

MINGLETON—Departed this life Wednesday, July 3rd, at 10 minutes to 4 o'clock A. M., Mr. Horace Mingletton, in the 94th year of his age. He leaves a kind and devoted mother, father, wife, three sisters, five children and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

His funeral took place from the Ebenezer Baptist Church of which he was a faithful member Friday, July 6th, Rev. W. H. Stokes, pastor officiating.

\$100 Endowment Paid.

Richmond Va., July 5th, 1901.
This is to certify that I have received from John Mitchell, Jr., Grand Worthy Counselor of the Grand Court of Va. One Hundred Dollars in payment of the death claim of Mrs. Sarah Johnson, who was a member of Maecio Court, No. 222, Independent Order of Calanthe.

Signed: Lewis Johnson, Administrator.

Witnesses: Eva G. Davis, D. Webster Davis, E. A. Washington.

NOTICE.

RICHMOND, VA., July 15, 1901.
The Little Dove Olive Leaf Club, No. 1, will have their 16th annual Thanksgiving services at the Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the 3rd Sunday in this month at 3:30 P. M. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. W. H. White. The Star Light Beneficial Club, No. 1, will escort the Little Doves.

All the clubs of the same order are respectfully invited to meet at our hall, No. 727 North 2nd street, at 2 o'clock P. M., sharp.

CHAS. WADY, Pres.; ZEB WALLACE, Sec'y.

Miss Martha E. Sayles, Past Worthy Counselor of Blooming Lily Court, No. 142, left for Cincinnati last Wednesday to spend the summer.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH TROUBLE.

FORGERY CHARGED.

NAMES SIGNED WITHOUT CONSENT.

A Remarkable Conclusion

A MEETING TO MUZZLE THE PRESS.

Where Will It End?

The white winged messenger of peace has not as yet hovered over the First Baptist Church, of which the late Rev. James H. Holmes, D. D., was pastor. It seems that the disposition of certain individuals to drive rough-shod over the rights and privileges of certain other individuals will yet lead to a serious crisis.

At a called meeting of the deacons held at 7 o'clock Sunday morning, a paper was presented by Brother Nelson Williams, Jr., asking for the calling of a church meeting to be held on Monday night, July 15th.

It was understood that this meeting was to consider the publication of the proceedings of the church-meeting in the PLANET, with a view of excluding John Mitchell, Jr.

DEACON JACKSON PRESIDED.

Deacon Benjamin Jackson presided. Deacon S. W. Shortt enquired as to the purpose for which the meeting was called and insisted that it be inserted in the application. Brother Nelson Williams, Jr. then inserted in the call that it was on account of a certain recent publication. Deacon Lewis stated that he understood that it was on account of statements in the PLANET. If it was for this purpose, he insisted that all publications should be taken up, those that had appeared in the NATIONAL BAPTIST of which Brother Nelson Williams, Jr. was editor, and also the publication by Brother W. H. Davis. He thought if it was intended to consider one, they should consider all.

FIFTEEN MUST SIGN IT.

The rule of the church is that upon the presentation to the deacons of a petition for a church meeting signed by 15 members of the church, such a meeting may be called by the deacon board.

Being advised of the situation, Editor Mitchell called on Rev. Dr. J. E. Jones, whose name was alleged to have been signed to the call. He was busying himself with his type-writer.

"Doctor, did you sign the call for a meeting to take steps to exclude me on Monday night?" Dr. Jones replied, "I did not. I left before deacon's meeting."

"Doctor, did you authorize any one to sign your name?" "No," was the reply.

MR. HOLMAN'S DENIAL.

Mr. Daniel Holman, who labors at 5th and Franklin Sts. was visited and asked a most cordial greeting. He was asked "Brother Holman, did you sign the call for the church meeting?" "No, I did not. I left the church before the deacon's meeting as I have to give dinner here at a quarter to one o'clock."

"Did you authorize any one to sign your name?" "I did not. If my name was signed, some one else put it there."

Passing 5th St., between Clay and Leigh Sts., the Editor met Brother Giles Hayden, hurrying to his work. He denied having signed the call or having authorized any one to sign his name.

BROTHER DAVIS BECOMES CONSERVATIVE.

Visiting Brother William Henry Davis is at his place of business a lively, but good natured discussion arose. He stated that he did not think it right to publish the church-meeting proceedings. He admitted signing the call and stated that when the PLANET came out Saturday, he was fretted when he read the article and had spoken hastily, saying that Mitchell and himself could not stay in the same church, but he felt differently now.

GENTLE REMINDER.

In the discussion he asked Brother Davis did he have any recollection of its publication in the papers, both daily and weekly of the 4th Baptist Church troubles, the Ebenezer Baptist Church troubles, the Second Baptist Church

Continued on 8th page.

A PLEA FOR SUFFRAGE.

COLORED MEN APPEAL TO THE COMMITTEE.

White Men Entertained. Will the Voice of the Advocates be Heard.

SAID NOTHING TO OFFEND.—THE RIGHT TO HOLD OFFICE.—CLIPPED FROM THE WHITE PRESS.

(Richmond Times, July 10, 1901.)
The Suffrage Committee heard addresses for two hours yesterday morning from representative colored men on the suffrage question.

Not one of the speakers uttered an intemperate word or advanced an idea except with Moderation.

While all of the six who spoke pleaded for equal suffrage rights, not one asked for the right to hold office, one of them saying there was no need of law to prohibit Negroes from holding office; it was done already and it would require a law commanding him to be put in office before such a thing happened, and Negroes did not expect that.

It was noticeable that all the speakers dealt in generalities, no statistics showing the progress of the race in material, social or political development being presented. Neither was any sentiment expressed that did not evince a spirit of willingness to abide by the judgment and wisdom of the convention. This was eloquently expressed by Rev. Z. D. Lewis when he said, "whatever you may do we will be submissive, satisfied that you will do what you think is best for us all, and we will patiently await developments and will be watching and waiting and hoping to see that it was God's hand that guided you."

A FINE ADDRESS.

The speech of Rev. Lewis was a gem in diction and matter. It was the product of a master of tact and breathed the unaffected sentiments of a generous heart.

The writer a few months ago reported an address made by the celebrated Dr. Lyman Abbott. Two of his striking epigrams are recalled: "A pessimist is a man, who, if offered a choice of two evils, will grab both." "A fanatic is one who honestly believes God Almighty would think just as he does if He was in possession of all the facts in the case."

"Our white friends," said the colored speaker yesterday, "say that Providence directed our steps to America and that now we should be deported to Africa."

The trouble about that is, God's providence has not been revealed unto us, and until that is done, we cannot be expected to go back to Africa, except under the same circumstances under which we left there."

Dr. Abbott himself would chuckle over that, and the committee thoroughly enjoyed it.

The speech of Prof. Daniel Webster Davis, who is not only a teacher, but a Lyman Abbott of reputation in the North, abounded in good points. It was a first-class free lecture, full of anecdotes, good sense and oratorical pyrotechnics that highly edified as well as amused the audience.

All the speakers alluded to the suffrage resolution uttered several days ago in the TIMES, and offered in the convention yesterday after the meeting by Hon. George D. Wise. They agreed that such a suffrage clause would not be objected to by the colored race.

A PLEA FOR HIS RACE.

Rev. F. T. Henderson, of Halifax Co., said, "We do not appear before you as colored men, but as citizens of the State of Virginia and of the United States of America."

In 1607 the white race settled Virginia and in 1619 they brought over a vessel loaded with our race as their first invited guests. We were cordially received and given a home. We came to you with due submission after more than two hundred years of faithful service and beseech you to do nothing in letter or spirit that will amount to a wholesale disfranchisement of the colored race.

We do not complain if you pass a law that will apply equally to all, even if it does disfranchise more of our race than yours. We do not ask to hold office and we do not expect to. The school fund is entirely in control of white men and it would waste your time to say anything against dividing that, for you are not going to do it.

Virginia Negroes are the best type of Africans on the globe. They come from selected ancestors because Virginia planters sold off all the undesirable characters before the war to the Southern cotton growing States."

NOT IN POLITICS.

Rev. W. H. Crawley, of Halifax said, "I represent no political party, but only the colored citizens of Halifax county."

"We appear before you in that submissive spirit which has characterized us as a race since we first came to this country. We do not feel that the present cordial, peaceful relations between the races justify any special legislation to our disadvantage. We want to feel that our best interests are with those who surround us and employ us. We are feeling this more and more. We are permanently at home. It would be unfortunate for us and for you to create a feeling of unrest or injustice by passing a law that puts fetters on us and will cripple us in our struggle along the paths of progress. We are weak, but not unworthy of encouragement to become stronger."

DO NOT EXPECT OFFICE.

J. C. Carter of Halifax county: "I do not come before men as an African, but as a native-born Virginian as much at home as McGregor on his native heath."

One of my race was asked if he was in favor of Negro suffrage. He replied: "No! I isn't, nigger dun suffered nuff already."

"Some people talk as if we had no business in this State and should take up our beds and walk off."

"For 250 years we wanted to walk and you would not let us. Now we wish to stay with you and let your people be our people, and your God be our God."

We are not willing to admit that ignorance should work a misfortune to the Negro and an advantage to a white man. We should not be made to feel that we are innocently disgraced before the world, for even a dog will not lick the hand that smites him."

"There should not be a tribe of Ishmanities in this land. If the Negro is given an equal chance with a superior race, we should not deny him the trial, or begrudge him some progress in the unequal contest."

"The Negro needs no law to keep him out of office. It would take a mighty strong law to allow him to get in office. Take hope from a man and you make him a beast."

"We ask you not to make a class of hereditary voters, black or white. The resolution I read in the TIMES, is just and fair. My race will not complain of that, because it treats all alike."

DAVIS' SPEECH.

Prof. Davis, of Richmond, said in part: "I do not think a Negro is clamoring to hold office over white men. This office of appearing before your able body for fifteen minutes is all that I want."

The great honor is grateful to me and is appreciated by my race.

We are as proud of our grand old mother of States and of Presidents as you are, and we have no envy because of their proud heritage. We Virginia Negroes are proud of our ancestry. Our race has cleared the forests, made the barren hill-sides and the river flats blossom as the rose. Our blood was shed with yours in fighting Indians, Mexicans and Yankees. We guarded you mothers, wives and daughters and made food to sustain them and you while you were fighting to keep us as your slaves, and we never murmured.

We will not object now to a property, a poll tax or an educational qualification suffrage clause, but we do ask that it apply to all alike."

An educated man is not always the best one, while the possession of property is an evidence of good sense and capacity to cast a vote properly. We oppose any scheme of racial disfranchisement because it can only be temporary at best, and may disturb our present peaceful relations. We never expect to see this land. The Negro now knows and thoroughly understands that no race has run up against the Anglo-Saxons a contest for equality even that did not go down."

"The Negro has been used for all

these years as a burden-bearer for political parties. He has now determined to think, act and vote for the best interests of his State. The northern men are good to Negroes in an inverse ratio to the number that inhabits a place."

"We like a hot sun and warm hearts. A Negro left the sunny clime of Virginia and went to Maine, and the climate and people froze him to death, so that he could get warm once more. Some one opened the door of the furnace before he was completely incinerated, and the old darkey yelled out, 'Shut that door; I can't stand that draught!'"

The speaker here read the report of the minority of the Suffrage Committee of the Alabama Convention and commented on it. He then paid a high tribute to the Virginia Negro, saying he was the highest type of the African race humorously remarking that "this idea of the Virginia Negro's excellence is an overtopping of a pardonable trait in our unrivaled white friends of the Old Dominion."

REV. LEWIS' REMARKS.

Rev. Z. D. Lewis, pastor of the Second Baptist Church (colored), of Richmond, said in part:

"I would not presume to say to you, noble and conscientious representatives of a noble Commonwealth, what is your duty in the grave matters before you. Even if I knew it I would not, and no man, if you cannot, can divine the right course to pursue."

"A great blessing has undoubtedly come to us out of slavery. Out of its dark dispensation there has come to us shining lights of civilization and Christianity which our brethren in the land of our ancestors have never enjoyed."

"We love these great institutions of American liberty and justice, and we personally love you, noble representatives of the supreme power of republican institutions."

"Our race, I believe, is striving to attain the point of being considered by you as worthy citizens."

"Many of us see our race's short comings and more and more of us are making a courageous effort to correct them. The speaker here made an affecting allusion to memories of boyhood days and lasting affection for a distinguished member of the committee and continued:

"We are truly thankful for what you Southern white men have done for us and we shall be submissive to whatever you may do, feeling satisfied that you will do what you think best for us all, and we will patiently wait and watch developments, hoping to see that God's hand has guided you."

William P. Morton, of Charlotte Co., said:

"I have been warning my people for years that a reaction would come among the white people as a result of their foolish herding in a solid mass against every thing proposed by them for the upbuilding of this grand old Commonwealth."

The hour has come for us to pray to give us an opportunity to show that we are worthy to be treated as independent, acting, thinking and voting citizens. We can promise you different actions in the future. You are trusted as while you were away on the battlefield and we ask you to try our work now."

We recognize that there is a class of people that should not have the franchise and all we ask that whatever color that class may be, even-handed justice will be meted to all."

THE RESOLUTION.

He then read the following memorial: "We, colored citizens of Charlotte, State of Virginia, in mass-meeting assembled, being fully alive to the questions that threaten our welfare and progress as a race—questions which will come before the Constitutional Convention, assembled at Richmond the 13th inst.—and believing that our best white friends are opposed to any measures that will tend to the shades of ignorance, idleness and irresponsibility; that 'to trim one's course to catch the breeze of

Continued on 8th page.